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**North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Executive Committee (EXCOM)**

Ms. Brena Jones, President
Ms. Kim Sparks, President-Elect
Dr. Greg Cope, Past President
Mr. Todd Ewing, Secretary-Treasurer

**PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
IN MEMORY OF JERRY R. FINKE**

I consider myself very lucky to have called Jerry Finke my good friend for seven years. Many of us were devastated when Jerry was prematurely taken by cancer in 2013. Not only was he extremely compassionate and generous beneath his trademark gruff exterior, but he embodied dedication to his work and loyalty to the group of fisheries biologists that was his family. On top of his duties to his NCWRC job of nearly 30 years, first as a fisheries biologist, then as invaluable IT support, Jerry was always there, in the background, for NCAFS. He volunteered as webmaster for our Chapter when it was time for us to have an online presence and later worked with the Southern Division as well. Naturally, every February, he was behind the projector with his Diet Pepsi, making sure that the quirky collection of equipment at each chapter meeting kept running and no one had to pantomime their presentation. In addition, Jerry was the first to develop an online dues and registration payment system, which continues to make life less paper-laden for our treasurers.

For these and many other quiet acts of support for NCAFS, we propose that the current Distinguished Service Award be renamed the “Jerry R. Finke Memorial Distinguished Service Award.” Although he didn’t display letters after his name, and he didn’t sport a long list of publications, he embodied the spirit of long service to the chapter. We submit this proposal for the review of the EXCOM, Awards Committee, and membership, to keep his name alive through a group of people of which he loved be a part.

Respectfully submitted,

Brena K. Jones— NC AFS Chapter Member, President
Dr. Tom J. Kwak— NC AFS Chapter Member, Past-President